

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PLANS FOR BOP ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE

REFS: SECTO 8134 (NOTAL); BRUSSELS 6951 (NOTAL);
STATE 182865

1. ACTING AF/C DIRECTOR STRAND AND DEPTOFF GALLAGHER
MET WITH MINISTER CAHEN OF BELGIAN EMBASSY AUGUST 4 TO
DISCUSS US PLANS FOR ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AND ZAIRE'S
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MOVEMENT TOWARD IMF, ALONG LINES REF C, AND TO ASK ABOUT

GOB PLANS FOR BOP ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. MEETING TOOK PLACE BEFORE RECEIPT REF A. MEETING WAS FOLLOW-UP TO CAHEN-VANCE MEETING HELD PRIOR TO AMB. VANCE'S VISIT TO KINSHASA IN LATE JULY.

2. CAHEN SAID HIS GOVT WAS WORKING ON PACKAGE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE BOTH SOME SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM DEBT RELIEF AND SOME NEW MONEY BUT THAT THEIR PLANNING WAS NOT SO FAR ADVANCED AS USG'S. NO TOTAL FIGURE OR DETAILED BREAKDOWN YET DECIDED. CAHEN NOTED THAT TWO PRIVATE BANKS WITH LARGEST EXPOSURE IN ZAIRE, SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE AND BANQUE LAMBERT, BOTH SEEMED FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO REFINANCING SHORT-TERM CREDIT FOR ZAIRE.

3. CAHEN SAID HE EXPECTED THAT MAIN LINES AT LEAST OF BELGIAN PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TO KINSHASA, PROBABLY IN SEPT. HE COMMENTED THAT BELGIAN FONMIN WOULD PREFER LATER VISIT (PRESUMABLY TO HAVE NEW AMB. ON BOARD AND PERMIT PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS ENVISAGED PARA 5 REF B) BUT THAT TINDEMANS WANTS SEPT. AND WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE HIS WAY.

4. CAHEN SAID FONMIN AFRICA CHIEF LEBRUN HAD INDICATED POSSIBLE INTEREST IN VISITING US TO CONSULT ON AID TO ZAIRE. STRAND SAID LEBRUN WOULD BE WELCOME BUT NOTED NEED FOR DISCRETION IN CONSULTATIONS TO AVOID GIVING MOBUTU ANY REASON TO THINK US AND BELGIUM GANGING UP ON HIM OR PRESUMING TO SORT OUT ZAIRE'S PROBLEM BEHIND HIS BACK. CAHEN AGREED EMPHATICALLY, AND SUGGESTED LEBRUN MIGHT MAKE SIDE TRIP TO WASHINGTON WHEN IN NEW YORK FOR UNGA. CAHEN PROMISED TO REPORT BACK AS SOON AS HE HAD ANYTHING FURTHER ON GOB'S PLANS FOR ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. KISSINGER

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